

In re the Application of

Kenji IMAMURA et al.

Application No.: New U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/006231

Filed: October 21, 2005

Docket No.: 125695

For: SHOCK ABSORBING STEERING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT


Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. Relevance of references 7-8 is discussed in the present specification.
- ☒ 3. References 1, 3-6 & 14 were cited in the International Search Report. An English language version of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☒ 4. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2)(ii), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.
- ☒ 5. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language references 9-13 & 15 appears in the Appendix attached hereto.
- ☒ 6. English language Abstracts references 9-10 & 12-13 are attached hereto.
- ☒ 7. A computer-generated English language translation of the following Japanese Patent Publication has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([http://www.jpo.go.jp]), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See Reference 7-10 & 12-13.
- ☒ 8. References 2 and 15 correspond to Reference 14.

Respectfully submitted,


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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 125695		APPLICATION NO. New U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/006231 <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">10/554024</div>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Kenji IMAMURA et al.			
FILING DATE October 21, 2005							

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	1.	5,378,021	01/03/1995	Mikio YAMAGUCHI et al.		
	2.	US 2002/0167157 A1	11/14/2002	Shin MATSUMOTO et al.		
	3.	6,224,104 B1	05/01/2001	Tadashi HIBINO		
	4.	5,209,135	05/11/1993	Mitsuo ICHIKAWA		
	5.	5,961,146	10/05/1999	Sakae MATSUMOTO et al.		
	6.	6,454,302 B1	09/24/2002	Xiaoyu LI et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	7.	JP-U-06-079690 w/ trans.	11/08/1994	JAPAN		
	8.	JP-Y2-06-045415 w/ trans.	11/24/1994	JAPAN		
	9.	JP-A-2002-137743 w/ abst. & trans.	05/14/2002	JAPAN		
	10.	JP-A-07-186974 w/ abst. & trans.	07/25/1995	JAPAN		
	11.	JP-U-03-060156	06/13/1991	JAPAN		
	12.	JP-A-2001-114113 w/ abst. & trans.	04/24/2001	JAPAN		
	13.	JP-A-10-045004 w/ abst. & trans.	02/17/1998	JAPAN		
	14.	EP 1 247 721 A2	10/09/2002	EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE		
	15.	JP-A-2002-362381	12/18/2002	JAPAN		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

Date: October 21, 2005

APPENDIX

CONCISE EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 98

JP-U-6-79690

JP-Y2-6-45415

Concise explanations of these documents are given on pages 1 and 2 of the specification.

JP-A-2002-137743

This document discloses an electromagnetic actuator which is energized and de-energized to change an impact energy absorbing load.

JP-7-186974

This document discloses two energy absorbing plates which are spaced apart from each other in lateral direction of vehicle.

JP-U-3-60156

This document discloses an energy absorbing plate which is fixed one of vehicle body and steering column and which is engageable with the other of the vehicle body and steering column.

JP-A-2001-114113

JP-A-10-45004

These documents disclose a pair of energy absorbing plates.

JP-A-2002-362381

This document discloses an energy absorbing member whose energy absorbing characteristic is electrically controllable.